

# PRA

**PRACTISER.** *n. f.* [from *practise*.]  
 1. One that practises any thing; one that does any thing habitually.  
 We will, in the principles of the politician, shew how little efficacy they have to advance the *practiser* of them to the things they aspire to. *South's Sermons.*  
 2. One who prescribes medical treatment.  
 Sweet *practiser*, thy physick I will try,  
 That ministers thine own death if I die. *Shakespeare.*  
 I had reasoned myself into an opinion, that the use of physicians, unless in some acute disease, was a great venture, and that their greatest *practisers* practised least upon themselves. *Temple.*  
**PRACTITIONER.** *n. f.* [from *practise*.]  
 1. He who is engaged in the actual exercise of any art.  
 The author exhorts all gentlemen *practitioners* to exercise themselves in the transitory.  
 I do not know a more universal and unnecessary mistake among the clergy, but especially the younger *practitioners*. *Sw.*  
 2. One who uses any fly or dangerous arts.  
 There is some papistical *practitioners* among you. *Whitgift.*  
 3. One who does any thing habitually.  
 He must be first an exercised, thorough-paced *practitioner* of these vices himself. *South's Sermons.*  
**PRÆCOGNITA.** *n. f.* [Latin.] Things previously known in order to understanding something else; thus the structure of the human body is one of the *præcognita* of physick.  
 Either all knowledge does not depend on certain *præcognita* or general maxims, called principles, or else these are principles. *Locke.*  
**PRAGMA'TICK.** *adj.* [*πράγματικα*; *pragmaticus*, Fr.]  
**PRAGMATICAL.** *adj.* Meddling; impertinently busy; assuming business without leave or invitation.  
 No sham so gross, but it will pass upon a weak man that is *pragmatical* and inquisitive. *L'Estrange.*  
 Common estimation puts an ill character upon *pragmatick* meddling people.  
 He understands no more of his own affairs, than a child; he has got a sort of a *pragmatical* filly jade of a wife, that pretends to take him out of my hands. *Arbutnot.*  
 The fellow grew so *pragmatical*, that he took upon him the government of my whole family. *Arbutnot.*  
 Such a backwardness there was among good men to engage with an usurping people, and *pragmatical* ambitious orators.  
 They are *pragmatical* enough to stand on the watch tower, but who assigned them the post? *Swift.*  
**PRAGMA'TICALLY.** *adv.* [from *pragmatical*.] Meddlingly; impertinently.  
**PRAGMA'TICALNESS.** *n. f.* [from *pragmatical*.] The quality of intermeddling without right or call.  
**PRAISE.** *n. f.* [*πρῆσις*, Dutch.]  
 1. Renown; commendation; fame; honour; celebrity.  
 Best of fruits, whose taste has taught  
 The tongue, not made for speech, to speak thy *praise*. *Milt.*  
 Lucan, content with *praise*, may lie at ease  
 In costly grots and marble palaces;  
 But to poor Bassus what avails a name,  
 To starve on compliments and empty fame. *Dryden.*  
 2. Glorification; tribute of gratitude; laud.  
 He hath put a new song in my mouth, even *praise* unto our God. *Psalms xl. 3.*  
 To God glory and *praise*. *Milton.*  
 3. Ground or reason of praise.  
 Praiseworthy actions are by thee embrac'd;  
 And 'tis my *praise* to make thy praises last. *Dryden.*  
**TO PRAISE.** *v. a.* [*præsen*, Dutch.]  
 1. To commend; to applaud; to celebrate.  
 Will God incense his ire  
 For such a petty trespass, and not *praise*  
 Rather your dauntless virtue. *Milton.*  
 We *praise* not Hector, though his name we know  
 Is great in arms; 'tis hard to *praise* a foe. *Dryden.*  
 2. To glorify in worship.  
 The shepherds returned, glorifying and *praising* God for all the things that they had heard and seen. *Luke ii. 20.*  
 One generation shall *praise* thy works to another, and declare thy mighty works. *Psalms cxlv. 4.*  
 Their touch'd their golden harps, and hymning *prais'd* God and his works. *Milton.*  
**PRAYSEFUL.** *adj.* [*præsi* and *full*.] Laudable; commendable. Not now in use.  
 Of whose high praise, and *praiseful* bliss,  
 Goodness the pen, heaven the paper is. *Sidney.*  
 He ordain'd a lady for his prize,  
 Generally *praiseful*, fair and young, and skill'd in housewiferies. *Chapman's Iliad.*  
**PRAISER.** *n. f.* [from *praise*.] One who praises; an applauder; a commender.  
 We men and *praisers* of men should remember, that if we have such excellencies, it is reason to think them excellent creatures, of whom we are. *Sidney.*

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Forgive me, if my verse but say you are  
 A Sidney: but in that extend as far  
 As loudest *praisers*. *B. Johnson's Epig.*  
 Turn to God, who knows I think this true,  
 And useth oft, when such a heart mislays,  
 To make it good; for such a *praiser* prays. *Donne.*  
**PRAISEWORTHY.** *adj.* [*præsi* and *worthy*.] Commendable; deserving praise.  
 The Tritonian goddess having heard  
 Her blazed fame, which all the world had fill'd,  
 Came down to prove the truth, and due reward  
 For her *praiseworthy* workmanship to yield. *Spenser.*  
 Since men have left to do *praiseworthy* things,  
 Most think all praises flatteries; but truth brings  
 That found, and that authority with her name,  
 As to be rais'd by her is only fame. *Ben. Johnson.*  
 Firmus, who seized upon Egypt, was so far *praiseworthy*, that he encouraged trade. *Arbutnot on Cæsar.*  
**PRAME.** *n. f.* A flat bottomed boat.  
**TO PRANCE.** *v. a.* [*prænken*, Dutch, to set one's self to show.]  
 1. To spring and bound in high mettle.  
 Here's no fantastick mask, nor dance,  
 But of our kids that frisk and *prance*;  
 Nor wars are seen,  
 Unless upon the green,  
 Two harmless lambs are butting one the other. *Wotton.*  
 With mud fill'd high, the rumbling cart draws near,  
 Now rule thy *prancing* steeds, lac'd charioteer. *Gay.*  
 Far be the spirit of the chase from them,  
 To spring the fence, to rein the *prancing* steed. *Thomson.*  
 2. To ride gallantly and ostentatiously.  
 The horses' hoofs were broken by means of the *prancings*, the *prancings* of their mighty ones. *Judges v. 22.*  
 I see  
 Th' insulting tyrant, *prancing* o'er the field,  
 Strow'd with Rome's citizens, and drench'd in slaughter,  
 His horses' hoofs wet with patrician blood. *Addison.*  
 3. To move in a warlike or showy manner.  
 We should neither have meat to eat, nor manufacture to cloathe us, unless we could *prance* about in coats of mail, or eat brass. *Swift.*  
**TO PRANK.** *v. a.* [*prænken*, Dutch.] To decorate; to dress or adjust to ostentation.  
 Some *prank* their ruffs, and others timely dight  
 Their gay attire. *Fairy Queen.*  
 In wine and meats she slow'd above the bank,  
 And in excess exceeded her own night,  
 In sumptuous tire the joy'd herself to *prank*,  
 But of her love too lavish. *Fairy Queen.*  
 These are tribunes of the people,  
 The tongues o' th' common mouth: I despise them;  
 For they do *prank* them in authority  
 Against all noble sufferance. *Shakespeare.*  
 Your high self,  
 The gracious mark o' th' land, you have obscur'd  
 With a swain's wearing; and me, poor lowly maid,  
 Most goddess-like *prank'd* up. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*  
 'Tis that miracle, and queen of gems,  
 That nature *pranks*, her mind attracts my soul. *Shakespeare.*  
 I had not unlock'd my lips  
 In this unhallowed air, but that this jugler  
 Would think to charm my judgment as mine eyes,  
 Obtruding false rules, *pranks* in reason's garb. *Milton.*  
**PRANK.** *n. f.* A frolic; a wild flight; a ludicrous trick; a wicked act.  
 Lay home to him;  
 Tell him, his *pranks* have been too broad to bear with. *Shakespeare.*  
 Such is thy audacious wickedness,  
 Thy lewd, pestif'rous and dissolvent *pranks*;  
 The very infants prattle of thy pride.  
 They caused the table to be covered and meat set on, which was no sooner set down, than in came the harpies, and played their accustomed *pranks*. *Raleigh.*  
 They put on their cloaths, and played all those *pranks* you have taken notice of. *Addison's Guardian.*  
**PRA'VE.** *n. f.* [*πράξις*.] A leek; also a sea weed as green as a leek. *Bailey.*  
**TO PRATE.** *v. n.* [*praten*, Dutch.] To talk carelessly and without weight; to chatter; to be loquacious; to prattle.  
 His knowledge or skill is in *prating* too much. *Tulser.*  
 Behold me, which owe  
 A moiety of the throne, here standing  
 To *prate* and talk for life and honour, 'fore  
 Who please to hear. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*  
 This starved justice hath *prated* to me of the wildness of his youth, and the feats he hath done about Turnbal-street; and every third word a lie. *Shakespeare's Henry IV. p. ii.*  
 After Flammoek and the blacksmith had, by joint and several *pratings*, found tokens of consent in the multitude, they offered themselves to lead them. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
 Oh listen with attentive light  
 To what my *prating* eyes indite! *Cleveland.*  
 What

# PRA

What nonsense would the fool thy master *prate*,  
 When thou, his knave, can't talk at such a rate. *Dryden.*  
 She first did wit's prerogative remove,  
 And made a fool presume to *prate* of love. *Dryden.*  
 This is the way of the world; the deaf will *prate* of discords in music. *Watts.*  
**PRA'VE.** *n. f.* [from the verb.] Tattle; slight talk; unmeaning loquacity.  
 If I talk to him; with his innocent *prate*,  
 He will awake my mercy which lies dead. *Shakespeare.*  
 Would her innocent *prate* could overcome me;  
 Oh! what a confid' do I feel. *Denham's Sophy.*  
**PRA'VE.** *n. f.* [from *prate*.] An idle talker; a chatterer.  
 When expectation rages in my blood,  
 Is this a time, thou *prater*; hence be gone. *Southern.*  
**PRA'TINGLY.** *adv.* [from *prate*.] With little tattle; with loquacity.  
**PRATTIQUE.** *n. f.* [French; *prattica*, Italian.] A licence for the master of a ship to traffick in the ports of Italy upon a certificate, that the place, from whence he came, is not annoyed with any infectious disease. *Bailey.*  
**TO PRATTLE.** *v. n.* [diminutive of *prate*.] To talk lightly; to chatter; to be trivially loquacious.  
 But I *prattle*  
 Something too wildly, and my father's precepts  
 I therein do forget. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*  
 What the great ones do, the less will *prattle* of. *Shakespeare.*  
 A French woman teaches an English girl to speak and read French, by only *prattling* to her. *Locke.*  
 There is not so much pleasure to have a child *prattle* agreeably, as to reason well. *Locke on Education.*  
 His tongue, his *prattling* tongue, had chang'd him quite  
 To footy blackness, from the purest white. *Ad. Ovid.*  
 A little lively rustick, trained up in ignorance and prejudice, will *prattle* treason a whole evening. *Addison.*  
 I must *prattle* on,  
 And beg your pardon, yet this half hour.  
 Let cred'ulous boys and *prattling* nurses tell,  
 How if the festival of Paul be clear,  
 Plenty from lib'ral horn shall flow the year. *Gay.*  
**PRA'TTLE.** *n. f.* [from the verb.] Empty talk; trifling loquacity.  
 In a theatre the eyes of men,  
 After a well-grac'd actor leaves the stage,  
 Are idly bent on him that enters next,  
 Thinking his *prattle* to be tedious. *Shakespeare's Rich. II.*  
 The bookish theorick,  
 Wherein the tog'd confuls can propose  
 As masterly as he; mere *prattle*, without practice,  
 Is all his soldierish. *Shakespeare's Othello.*  
 The insignificant *prattle* and endless garrulity of the philosophy of the schools. *Glanville.*  
**PRA'TTLER.** *n. f.* [from *prattle*.] A trifling talker; a chatterer.  
 Poor *prattler*! how thou talk'st?  
*Prattler*, no more, I say;  
 My thoughts must work, but like a noiseless sphere,  
 Harmonious peace must rock them all the day;  
 No room for *prattlers* there. *Herbert.*  
**PRA'VE.** *n. f.* [*præviat*, Lat.] Corruption; badness; malignity.  
 Doubt not but that sin  
 Will reign among them, as of thee begot;  
 And therefore was law given them, to evince  
 Their natural *pravity*. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xii.*  
 More people go to the gibbet for want of timely correction, than upon any incurable *pravity* of nature. *L'Estrange.*  
 I will shew how the *pravity* of the will could influence the understanding to a disbelief of Christianity. *South.*  
**PRAWN.** *n. f.* A small crustaceous fish, like a shrimp, but larger.  
 I had *prawns*, and borrowed a mess of vinegar. *Shakespeare.*  
**TO PRAY.** *v. n.* [*prære*, Fr. *præcare*, Italian.]  
 1. To make petitions to heaven.  
 I will buy with you, sell will you; but I will not eat with you, drink with you, nor *pray* with you. *Shakespeare.*  
*Pray* for this good man and his issue. *Shakespeare.*  
 Ne'er throughout the year to church thou go'st,  
 Except it be to *pray* against thy foes. *Shakespeare.*  
 I tell him, we shall stay here at the least a month; and he heartily *prays*, some occasion may detain us longer. *Shakespeare.*  
 Is any sick? let him call for the elders of the church, and let them *pray* over him. *Jam. v. 14.*  
 Unskillful with what words to *pray*, let me  
 Interpret for him. *Milton.*  
 He that *prays*, despairs not; but sad is the condition of him that cannot *pray*; happy are they that can, and do, and love to do it. *Taylor's Guide to Devotion.*  
 Thou, Turnus, shalt atone it by thy fate,  
 And *pray* to heav'n for peace, but *pray* too late. *Dryden.*  
 He prais'd my courage, *pray'd* for my success;  
 He was so true a father of his country,  
 To thank me for defending ev'n his foes. *Dryden.*

# PRE

Should you *pray* to God for a recovery, how rash would it be to accuse God of not hearing your prayers, because you found your disease still to continue. *Wake.*  
 2. To entreat; to ask submissively.  
 You shall find  
 A conqueror that will *pray* in aid for kindness,  
 Where he for grace is kneel'd to. *Shakespeare.*  
*Pray* that in towns and temples of renown,  
 The name of great Anchises may be known. *Dryden.*  
 3. I *PRAY*; that is, I *pray* you to tell me is a slightly ceremonious form of introducing a question.  
 But I *pray*, in this mechanical formation, when the ferment was expanded to the extremities of the arteries, why did it not break through the receptacle? *Bentley's Sermons.*  
 4. Sometimes only *pray* elliptically.  
 Barnard in spirit, sense and truth abounds;  
*Pray* then what wants he? fourscore thousand pounds. *Pope.*  
**TO PRAY.** *v. a.*  
 1. To supplicate; to implore; to address with submissive petitions.  
 How much more, if we *pray* him, will his ear  
 Be open, and his heart to pity incline? *Milton.*  
 2. To ask for as a suppliant.  
 He that will have the benefit of this act, must *pray* a prohibition before a sentence in the ecclesiastical court. *Ayliffe.*  
 3. To entreat in ceremony or form.  
*Pray* my colleague Antonius I may speak with him;  
 And as you go, call on my brother Quintus,  
 And *pray* him with the tribunes to come to me. *B. Johnson.*  
**PRAY'ER.** *n. f.* [*prære*, Fr.]  
 1. Petition to heaven.  
 They did say their *prayers*, and address'd them  
 Again to sleep. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*  
 O remember, God!  
 O hear her *prayer* for them as now for us. *Shakespeare.*  
 Were he as famous and as bold in war,  
 As he is fam'd for mildness, peace and *prayer*. *Shakespeare.*  
 My heart's desire and *prayer* to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. *Romans x. 1.*  
 Sighs now breath'd  
 Inutterable, which the spirit of *prayer*  
 Inspir'd. *Milton.*  
 No man can always have the same spiritual pleasure in his *prayers*; for the greatest saints have sometimes suffered the banishment of the heart, sometimes are fervent, sometimes they feel a barrenness of devotion; for this spirit comes and goes. *Taylor's Guide to Devotion.*  
 2. Entreaty; submissive importunity.  
*Prayer* among men is supposed a means to change the person to whom we *pray*; but prayer to God doth not change him, but fits us to receive the things prayed for. *Stillingfleet.*  
**PRAY'ERBOOK.** *n. f.* [*prayer* and *book*.] Book of publick or private devotions.  
 Get a *prayerbook* in your hand,  
 And stand between two churchmen;  
 For on that ground I'll build a holy descent. *Shakespeare.*  
 I know not the names or number of the family which now reigns, farther than the *prayerbook* informs me. *Swift.*  
**PRE.** [*præ*, Lat.] A particle which, prefixed to words derived from the Latin, marks priority of time or rank.  
**TO PREACH.** *v. n.* [*prædicare*, Lat. *prædicare*, Fr.] To pronounce a publick discourse upon sacred subjects.  
 From that time Jesus began to *preach*. *Mat. iv. 17.*  
 Prophets *preach* of thee at Jerusalem. *Neb. vi. 7.*  
 Divinity would not pass the yard and loom, the forge or anvil, nor *preaching* be taken in as an easier supplementary trade, by those that disliked the pains of their own. *D. of Pie.*  
 As he was sent by his father, so were the apostles commissioned by him to *preach* to the gentile world. *D. of Pie.*  
 The shape of our cathedral is not proper for our *preaching* auditories, but rather the figure of an amphitheatre with galleries. *Graunt.*  
**TO PREACH.** *v. a.*  
 1. To proclaim or publish in religious orations.  
 The Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge, that the word of God was *preached* of Paul. *Acts.*  
 2. To inculcate publicly; to teach with earnestness.  
 There is not any thing publicly notified, but we may properly say it is *preached*. *Hooker.*  
 He oft to them *preach'd*  
 Conversion and repentance. *Milton.*  
 Can they *preach* up equality of birth,  
 And tell us how we all began from earth. *Dryden.*  
 Huge heaps of slain;  
 A good old man while peace he *preach'd* in vain,  
 Amidst the madness of th' unruly train. *Dryden.*  
**PREACH.** *n. f.* [*prædicare*, Fr. from the verb.] A discourse; a religious oration.  
 This oversight occasioned the French spitefully to term religion in that sort exercised, a mere *preach*. *Hooker.*